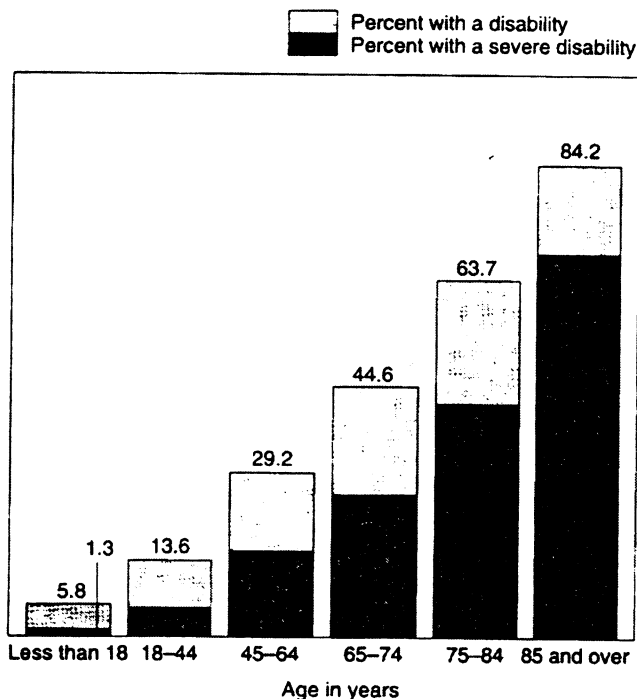


Figure 1.
Percent of Persons With a Disability and With
a Severe Disability, by Age: 1991-92



Certain definitional issues arise when trying to determine the link between age and disability. Of primary importance is the decision concerning the age at which working at a job or business is no longer counted as an expected life activity. The SIPP work disability questions were not asked of persons 68 years old and over. Yet some persons are interested in working at age 68 and

beyond. The decision to restrict the universe for the work disability question to persons 16 to 67 affects the interpretation of the link between age and disability.

The relationship between age and disability strengthens (in terms of the proportion of persons with specific disabilities who are 65 years old and over) when the areas of functional limitations, the need for assistance, and the use of special aids are examined. Questions on these topics were asked for persons 15 years old and over.

Persons 65 years old and over made up 56.8 percent of those with a severe functional limitation, 57.9 percent of those needing assistance with an ADL or IADL (the latter two figures are not statistically different), 64.6 percent of persons who use wheelchairs, and 71.9 percent of those who used a cane, crutches, or a walker and who had used such an aid for 6 months or longer.

RACE, HISPANIC ORIGIN, AND DISABILITY

Data for persons of all ages show that the overall disability rates among Whites (19.7 percent), Blacks (20.0 percent), and American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts (21.9 percent) were not statistically different, but the rate of 15.3 percent among persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) was lower than the rates for the first three groups mentioned, and the rate among Asians and Pacific Islanders (9.9 percent) was lower than the rate for persons of Hispanic origin (see table 11).

There were differences among races and ethnicity groups in the severe disability prevalence rate. The rate was 9.4 percent among Whites; 12.2 percent among Blacks; and 8.4 percent among persons of Hispanic origin. Asians and Pacific Islanders had the lowest

Figure 2.
Sex and Age Composition of Persons
With a Disability: 1991-92

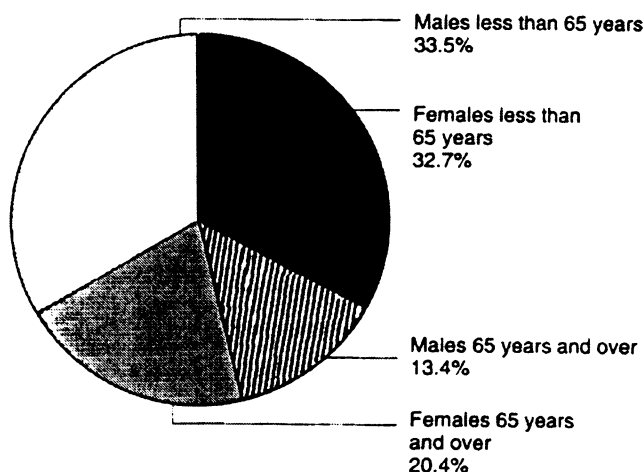


Figure 3.
Sex and Age Composition of Persons
With a Severe Disability: 1991-92

